

Board of Health Meeting MINUTES
Wednesday, March 2, 2022
Commission Chambers Room 105, 325 2nd Avenue N, Great Falls MT 59401
and Via Zoom Webinar

Members Present:

Matt Martin, DDS
Tom Moore
Amanda Ball
Mayor Bob Kelly
Commissioner Joe Briggs
Dr. Geyer, DO

Staff/Visitors Present:

Bowen Trystianson—Interim Health Officer, Carey Ann Haight—County Attorney, Phoebe Marcinick—County Attorney, Melanie McKinzie Swartz—Office & Accreditation Coordinator, Rachel Doran—MT Connect Coordinator, Ben Spencer—Communications & Privacy Officer, Jo-Viviane Jones—Family Health Services Division Manager, Sandy Johnson—Superfund Site Coordinator, Lora Mehaffey, Kendal Nagel, Wade Stout, Nicole Girtten, Jenn Rowell, Pat Frisch, Lacey Gallagher, Christy Buttler-Nelson, Sydne Fletcher, Lindsay McDonald, Heidi Brelsford, Britt Henneford, Ericka Taylor

Dr. Martin opened the meeting at 11:37 a.m. A quorum was present.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Approve Minutes from February 2, 2022, BOH Meeting: Dr. Martin

Mayor Kelly made a motion, “...that we approve the minutes from our last board meeting [on] February 2, 2022. Dr. Geyer seconded the motion. There were no public comments. With all board members voting in favor, the minutes were approved.

2. COVID-19: Mr. Trystianson

Mr. Trystianson provided the COVID-19 Report.

- COVID-19
 - 223 new cases – a slight increase.
 - 153 active cases – significantly reduced from previous weeks.
 - All cases entered/updated, and backlog cleared. This may slightly increase case counts next week.
 - Anticipate cases will continue downward trend.
- CCHD is distributing COVID-19 home test kits on site and to local businesses. Positive results can be reported to DPHHS by scanning the test kit QR code or online at hometest.mt.gov.
- Hospitals experiencing relief with decreased case counts.
- CDC is reporting COVID-19 Community Level (Low/Medium/High) at the local county level.
- Great Falls Public Schools (GFPS)
 - 7 active cases within the school district.
 - CDC is no longer requiring students and others to wear masks on school buses.

3. BOH Governing Body Update: Commissioner Briggs

Commissioner Briggs provided the BOH “governing body” update.

- An agreement is in place between the City and County through June 30, 2022.
- City Commissioner McKenney and Commissioner Briggs met last week to informally discuss a pathway moving forward to start the process of discussing the overall structure of the BOH and long-term MOU. City Commissioner McKenney and Commissioner Briggs will be briefing their fellow commissioners.
- The City moved forward with court action regarding the make-up of the governing body.

- The County responded to the declaratory petition and provided a copy to the City Attorney.
- Judge Best is still assigned to the case, but delays could be experienced if she opts to recuse herself or decline jurisdiction.
- Ms. Haight will notify the BOH with any updates.

4. Health Officer Hiring Process Update: Dr. Martin

Dr. Martin reported on the health officer hiring process.

- Five candidates have submitted applications.
- Screening tool will be forwarded to the BOH to review and make comments.
- Screening tool will be used to score candidates and select those to be interviewed.
- Screening will occur first with applications going to BOH members then forwarded to the County Commissioners.
- County Human Resources will provide interview materials.
- Interview questions will be provided to BOH members in advance for input and suggestions.
- The County Commissioners will conduct the interview.
- BOH will attend the interviews via Zoom. Interviews will be recorded.
- BOH members may provide input prior to hiring of a health officer.
- The County Commission will make the final candidate selection.

5. Family Health Services Report: Mr. Trystianson

Ms. Jones provided the Family Health Services Report.

WIC

- Infant formula recall has created major disruptions to WIC and clients over the last two weeks. Parents have been frustrated and concerned trying to find replacement formula to feed their children.
 - WIC requested participants return recalled formula they were issued and attempted to issue replacement formula if available.
 - The State sent a list of replacement formulas that participants could purchase at the stores with their WIC EBT card; however, UPC codes were not working when WIC participants were checking out.
 - An additional challenge was limited supplies in retail stores due to supply chain issues; therefore, making it difficult to find replacement formula.
 - Staff encouraged participants to call the WIC office while at the store to help identify formulas to choose (available on the shelf) as well as walk clients through the checkout process since store clerks are not always familiar with the recall issues and allowable replacements under WIC.
- WIC continues to work under the waiver issued in March 2020 and in place through end of June 2022. The waiver allows remote appointments, waives height and weight metrics, and enables WIC to issue formula remotely. An update will be received by end of March on status of the waiver. Waiver will be in place until 90 days after the pandemic is officially declared over.

Home Visiting

- The division is seeing consistent referrals to our home visiting programs including the Foster Child Health Program. The division manager reviews the referral list monthly with assigned staff. The majority of referred clients have issues with domestic violence and drug use. Most referrals are from Child and Family Services Division. Seeing a lot of high-risk clients and do not see that changing.

Oral Health

- The Oral Health Educator, Ms. Tacke, completed in person dental hygiene education to kindergarten, 2nd, and 4th grade classes in February 2022.
- The Oral Health program educates more than 5,000 children each year in county/city/parochial schools.

- During COVID-19, in person education was suspended. Ms. Tacke recorded YouTube education sessions for teachers to show their students.
- The Oral Health Program along with volunteer dental providers ensures every student K-5th grade interacts with an oral health provider.
- The majority of dentists in the community volunteer and perform dental screenings for 1st, 3rd, and 5th - graders.
- The school secretary is notified when oral health concerns are identified and contacts parents to alert them of dental issues. A list of participating dentists is provided to parents (offering reduced fees if needed) to coordinate care.
- The Foster Child Health Program identifies gaps in medical and dental care to ensure follow-up for foster children.

6. Environmental Health Report: Ms. Brusky

Ms. Brusky provided the Environmental Health Division Report.

- The division is down 2.5 full-time employees.
- Ms. Johnson and Ms. Brusky are splitting division manager duties.
- The State sent notice of delinquent licensed establishments including food, public accommodations, pools, trailer parks, and wholesale foods. The division is notifying delinquent establishments to pay their license fees. There are approximately 630 licensed establishments in the County.
- The division met with Farmers' Market Managers to discuss food permits. One of the division's goals is to reduce time spent on these permits. Farmers' Market managers will be vetting more vendors this year.
- 22 septic permits issued to date (39 to date in 2021). 220 septic permits issued in 2021.
- Septic installers have indicated to anticipate a busy year.
- 35 location conformance permits to date.
- 33 rabies bites to date. 230 bites reported in 2021.

Septic Variance Request – Grout

Ms. Johnson reviewed the septic variance request with the Board and recommended approval.

- Property in Monarch wedged between two creeks with no room for a standard septic system.
- Request is for an EcoJohn. Environmental Health has proposed approval of EcoJohn systems in Circular DEQ 4. This would do away with the need for a septic variance request when this system is used.
- The property has an outhouse, which is allowed as long as there is not a piped water supply.
 - This septic system issue came to light with the drilling of a new well piping water to the house.
 - The EcoJohn system is the only option in order to keep the well.
 - The Board discussed abandonment of the well as a requirement of the approval.

Dr. Geyer moved to approve the request as written. Mr. Moore seconded the motion. There were no public comments. Members discussed adding abandonment of the outhouse to the motion. Dr. Geyer amended his motion to "...modify my motion to include the sentence that the existing outhouse be abandoned." Mr. Moore seconded the motion. With all board members voting in favor, the motion carried.

7. Superfund Site Report: Ms. Johnson

Ms. Johnson provided the Superfund Site Report.

- Black Eagle – Operable Unit 2 (OU2)
 - County Commissioners, Ms. Johnson, Water and Environmental Technologies (the County's consultant), Cascade County Public Works Director, and two representatives from the Black Eagle Task Force met on February 7, 2022, to discuss recommendations for incorporation of the land use plans for Art Higgins Park and the Railroad Corridor.
 - Sampling is continuing in OU2.

- Neihart – The prior DEQ Superfund Site Coordinator resigned, and the position has been filled.

8. **Prevention Services Report: Mr. Trystianson**

Mr. Trystianson provided the Prevention Services Report.

Communicable Disease Report

- Respiratory illness activity in the community includes influenza, RSV, enterovirus, and cold viruses.
- 47 Influenza cases (no hospitalizations).
- Springtime Illness
 - Campylobacter increasing due to handling of livestock.
 - Division is monitoring for Salmonella and E. coli.
- Communicable diseases levels are normal for the time of year.
- CCHD is stocking newly evaluated and approved vaccines.
- The agency is actively recruiting a clinical provider (MD, DO, NP). Interviews are being scheduled. CCHD and community benefits include expansion on program services including:
 - Syphilis diagnosis, staging, and treatment.
 - Hepatitis C diagnosis and treatment.
 - Address the gap between individuals obtaining diagnosis and treatment.
 - Improve Chronic Disease Management Program.

9. **Administration Report: Mr. Trystianson**

Mr. Trystianson provided the Administration Report.

Finance

- Immunization revenue is not updated.
 - External Flu Clinic billing entered by CCHD staff through December into January.
 - Billing entry transitioned to Big Sky Office and Management Company in January to complete billing entry from last year.
- Montana Chronic Disease Program and Public Health Emergency Preparedness programs received quarterly payments.
- FDA grant received reimbursement in December. The grant period ends in January.
- CCHD has several grants that run on different fiscal years which impacts % of funds expensed.

Administration

- CMR High School Health and Occupation Students of America (HOSA) assisted CCHD by labeling at home COVID-19 test kits.
 - The kits come in 230 count boxes. Each kit requires a label with the lot#/expiration date and a "Not for Resale" label. Labeling caused strain on staff due to volumes of kits received.
 - Students arrived on site, created an assembly line, and labelled remaining kits in an afternoon.
- EH Division Manager position is posted – no applicants.

10. **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

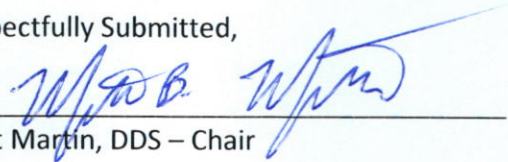
11. **Member Comments**

- Dr. Geyer commended Dr. Martin for "doing a fine job" as Chairman of the BOH.
- Mayor Kelly thanked Dr. Martin as well and participants of the meeting helping him learn more about the BOH.
- Dr. Martin expressed his appreciation for full attendance at the meeting and health department staff. He also reconfirmed timelines for review and return of the screening tool to score health officer candidates.

Adjournment

Dr. Martin adjourned the meeting at **12:42 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Matt Martin, DDS – Chair



Date